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Conference on Religion & Religious Identities in Africa and the African Diaspora

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Conference on Religion & Religious Identities in Africa and the African Diaspora

Call for Papers:

**Conference on Religion & Religious Identities in Africa and the African
Diaspora.**

Kalamazoo, Michigan, May 22-25, 2008.

Religious beliefs and identities have among other things shaped the nature of human experience in Africa and the African Diaspora. It is also a known fact that religious beliefs and identities have influenced human behavior in both religious and non-religious ways in different societies. These influences have included positive and negative consequences in the ordering of society in Africa and the African Diaspora. Another critical aspect in trying to explore the concept of religion is what constitutes religion and religious beliefs? To date, scholars of religion have divergent views on this issue. To what extent is this applicable to Africans and peoples of African descent? What roles have religion and religious identities played in nation-building efforts in Africa and the African Diaspora? This conference will explore these and other related issues. In addition, participants are invited to explore other topics such as, but not limited to the following:

- * Religion, gender and sexuality issues**
- * Religion and conflicts**
- * Religion, health and wellbeing**
- * Religion, State and political participation**
- * Religious denominations and community development**
- * Current scholarship on religion and religious Identities**
- * African religious identities in the Diaspora**
- * Religious identities in immigrant communities**
- * Pentecostalism in Africa and the African Diaspora**
- * Inter-religious encounters in Africa and the African Diaspora**
- * Islam, Christianity and African Traditional Religions**
- * Religion, Education and the making of the nation.**

Conference participants are encouraged to submit abstracts (300 words at most) on any aspect of the broad themes identified above. The deadline for submitting paper proposals is April 15, 2008. All abstracts should include title, the author's name, institutional affiliation, address, telephone number, and email address. Please submit all abstracts by e-mail to: Onaiwu W. Ogbomo, Western Michigan University Kalamazoo, e-mail: .

